

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 628

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William F. Moynihan of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William F. Moynihan, a prominent social worker and executive of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moynihan was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities, especially those most in need of assistance; not simply a line social worker, he put his stamp on policies and priorities, and developed the supporting local infrastructures to insure the effectiveness of social programs; and

WHEREAS, born in Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1921, William Moynihan earned a Bachelors Degree from Holy Cross College in 1941 and a Masters Degree from the Boston College School of Social Work in 1946; he served his country valiantly during World War II as a member of the 13th Army Air Force in the South Pacific theater; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moynihan served voluntary family and children's agencies in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio and Durham, North Carolina early in his career; in 1956 he came to Nashville to assume the duties of Executive Director of Family and Children's Service, followed by his astute and effective guidance of the Council of Community Services from 1965 to 1977 as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 until his retirement in 1991, William Moynihan served with great acumen and effectiveness as Director of the Metropolitan Social Services Department, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; following his retirement, he was commissioned to write the 50 year history of Family and Children's Service and then later served as a part-time consultant to the Tennessee Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Moynihan's tenure in Metro government, Metro Social Service's programs expanded beyond general assistance and residential care of youth and the elderly to encompass day care for children, homemaker service for the elderly and persons with disabilities, meals for the homebound elderly, refugee assistance, specialized transportation service and outreach to the homeless and supportive services for job trainees; and

WHEREAS, also during that period, the first new Knowles Home for the Aged was completed, and the second one built; substantial renovation of the Richland Village Residence for Youth was undertaken and a new cemetery for the indigent deceased was opened in Bordeaux; William Moynihan demonstrated throughout his career that advocacy and community building were essential to social work and he engaged in pioneering efforts to change delivery systems to reflect that philosophy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moynihan's program initiatives were characterized by the preservation of dignity, the alleviation of suffering and the promotion of justice, challenging and often changing attitudes and institutions that perpetuated misery and kept people down; his innovative programs while at the Council of Community Services included Rap House, now Oasis Center to serve youth and at Metro Social Services he promoted Nashville Coalition for the Homeless to advance new approaches for the delivery of health and other services to people living on the streets of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, highly respected among his peers and within the community, William Moynihan was elected president of the Eastern North Carolina and the Middle Tennessee Chapters of the National Association of Welfare; he lent his considerable talents in an advisory capacity with the United Way of Middle Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Human Services, the Tennessee State University Social Work program, the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, and many other local boards and committees; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Moynihan was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Middle Tennessee Board of N.A.S.W.; the Award for Career Excellence of the Tennessee Chapter, American Society for Public Administration; the Special Recognition Award of the Community Services Counselors Program; Central Labor Council; awards for dedicated service from the Tennessee State University Social Work program and its Alpha Delta Mu Chapter, and from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work; the

Sage Award of the Council on Aging and SAGA; the Council for Community Services; MANNA's Harry Chapin Award to Hunger Fighters; the National Conference's Good Neighbor Award for a Metro Employee and the Keyman Award of the Durham, North Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, William Moynihan was an active and devout member of the Cathedral of the Incarnation, which he attended faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moynihan was also deeply devoted to his family, always endeavoring to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Linda Christie Moynihan and was the proud parent of Ellen Graves Black and her husband Joel and Michael G. Moynihan and his wife, Wendy; step-children Christie A. Williams, Margaret C. Johnson, John C. Williams, Jr. and Cyndi D. Johnson; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his beloved grandchildren, Summer Foreman Knox, Sarah Becton, Brooke Ellen Black, Shelby Ann Black, Elizabeth Greenlaw Johnson, Franklin Vincent Johnson, Thomas Connery Johnson, Bryant Cheairs Johnson, B. Patrick Moynihan, and Alexandra O'Brien Williams and his cherished great grandchildren, James Alston Knox and Hunter Vance Knox, as well as a host of friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moynihan leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and compassionate human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William F. Moynihan, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to the service of humanity and to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Moynihan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

